

94. (Amended) A switch station, which exchanges a packet with a predetermined format, comprising ;

- a switch exchanging the packet;
- a control processor controlling operations of this switch station;
- a memory storing control information; and
- direct memory access unit directly writing to or reading from said memory the control information; wherein

said control processor transmits a control packet with the predetermined format via said switch to a terminal which is connected to this switch station, and wherein

the terminal reads the control information from said memory using said direct memory access unit according to the control packet and performs an operation according to the control information.

46. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 94 wherein

said control packet contains a command code and address data to be processed by said direct memory access unit.

47. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 94, wherein

said control packet is assigned routing information which identifies a path in said switch in the switch station to said direct memory access unit or the terminal.

48. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 94, wherein

output of said direct memory access unit is connected to a multiplexing circuit connected to an input highway of the switch station.

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50. (Twice Amended) The switch station according to claim 95, wherein

said control processor checks for a fault in a communication device connected to the control processor according to the program for a loopback test.

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53. (Twice Amended) A switch station comprising:
software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;
test cell inserting or extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the software

executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in said switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device, wherein

61 said test cell stores information specifying forward and backward paths of the test cell, and

62 said software executed by said software executing means conducts said inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the forward and backward paths of the test cell.

54. (Twice Amended) A switch station comprising:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting or extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in said switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device,